

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
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R 131305Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2917
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSULATE MUNICH
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 1609

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, PPDC
SUBJECT: CHARTER 77: A DRAFTER OF LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER
CHOOSES EXILE

1. ANONYMOUS LETTER TO PRESIDENT - PROFESSOR VACLAV LAMSER, A
PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY FORMERLY WITH THE SOCIOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
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OF THE CZECH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, WALKED INTO THE EMBASSY ON JUNE
7, 1977 AND SPOKE WITH AN EMBASSY OFFICER. LAMSER SAID THAT HE IS THE

LEADER OF A FIFTEEN-MEMBER "WORKING GROUP" OF THE CHARTER 77
MOVEMENT. IN MARCH HIS GROUP SENT PRESIDENT CARTER AN UNSIGNED
LETTER REGARDING VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.
HE SAID HE HAD BEEN A VISITING PROFESSOR AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN

1969 AND HAD BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH PROFESSOR BRZEZINSKI, WITH WHOM HE HAS CORRESPONDED OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS.

2. CHARTER 77 ACTIVITY: LAMSER SAID THAT SINCE THE "DEFECTION" OF PLAYWRIGHT VACLAV HAVEL (PRAGUE 1377 AND 1416) WHOM LAMSER DESCRIBED AS "PSYCHOLOGICALLY WEAK," THE MOVEMENT HAS DECIDED TO MAINTAIN A LOW PUBLIC PROFILE AND CONCENTRATE ON PUBLISHING AND DISSEMINATING WORKING PAPERS ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THE MOVEMENT WILL ALSO ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH "WORKING GROUPS" OUTSIDE OF PRAGUE, POSSIBLY IN BRNO AND OTHER CITIES. LAMSER SAID THAT THE PROBLEMS OF MAINTAINING THE SECURITY OF THESE GROUPS WILL INCREASE BECAUSE THESE CITIES DO NOT OFFER THE ANONYMITY THAT PRAGUE DOES AND SECURITY FORCES IN THESE SMALLER CITIES ARE APT TO BE MORE VIGILANT. HE NOTED THAT "CHARTER 77" IS PRIMARILY A CZECH MOVEMENT AND HAS HAD VERY LITTLE IMPACT IN SLOVAKIA. FOR THE TIME BEING, THE MOVEMENT'S LEADERSHIP WILL CONTINUE TO CONCENTRATE ITS EFFORTS IN BOHEMIA AND MORAVIA ALTHOUGH IT HAS NOT DISCOUNTED FUTURE EFFORTS IN SLOVAKIA SUCH AS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF "WORKING GROUPS" IN BRATISLAVA.

3. NEW LEADERSHIP: LAMSER ALSO SAID THAT VLADIMIR KADLEC, MINISTER OF EDUCATION UNDER DUBCEK, WOULD ASSUME A LEADING ROLE IN THE CHARTER MOVEMENT BEGINNING THIS SUMMER. KADLEC HAS NOT YET BECOME PUBLICLY IDENTIFIED WITH THE MOVEMENT BUT SUPPORTS ITS PRINCIPLES. COMMENT: KADLEC HAS BEEN MENTIONED BEFORE AS POSSIBLE SPOKESMAN (PRAGUE 0897). END COMMENT.

4. EXILE: LAMSER INDICATED THAT HE AND HIS TWO CHILDREN HAVE
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RECENTLY RECEIVED PERMISSION FROM THE CZECHOSLOVAK AUTHORITIES TO EMIGRATE TO AUSTRIA THIS SUMMER. LAMSER, WHO LOST HIS JOB WITH THE CZECH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES IN 1970, BUT WAS ALLOWED TO WORK FOR A SMALL INSTITUTE OF SOCIOLOGY IN PRAGUE, HOPES TO KEEP HIS JOB AT THE INSTITUTE UNTIL HIS DEPARTURE FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

HE PLANS TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING THE CHARTER 77 MOVEMENT FROM AUSTRIA. HE INDICATED HE MAY EVENTUALLY DECIDE TO IMMIGRATE TO THE UNITED STATES.

5. COMMENT: THAT LAMSER HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO KEEP WHAT APPEARS TO BE A RELATIVELY GOOD JOB IN SPITE OF BEING A CHARTER SIGNER AND HAVING SOUGHT PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE IS INTERESTING, BUT MAY BE DUE TO HIS NOT HAVING BEEN AMONG THE ORIGINAL SIGNERS, WHO HAVE SO FAR BORNE THE BRUNT OF REGIME HARASSMENT.
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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Concepts: TEXT, HUMAN RIGHTS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, CHARTER 77, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: PINT, SHUM, PPDC, CZ, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: STATE
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